

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Eighth Essex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2003.

Residents of Eighth Essex Representative District

Characteristics of Admissions

In FY 2003, there were 115,896 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; 2.1% (2,399) of these admissions reside in the Eighth Essex Representative District. 6% (135) of admissions from the Eighth Essex Representative District were under 17 years of age. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.** In FY 2003, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from the Eighth Essex Representative District reported the following characteristics:

- 66% were male and 34% were female.
- 57% were between the ages of 21-39.
- 72% were white non-Latino, 9% were black non-Latino, 14% were Latino, and 4% were other racial categories.
- 66% never married, 15% were married, and 19% reported not to be married now.
- 32% less than high school education, 50% completed high school, and 18% had more than high school education.
- 26% were employed.
- 11% were homeless.
- 32% had prior mental health treatment.

Primary Substance of Use

At admission clients also identify a "primary drug" of use that is the substance for which the client is seeking treatment. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Eighth Essex Representative District.

Table 1					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2003					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	39%	34%	10%	5%	2%
State	43%	38%	6%	4%	4%

Substances Used in Past Year

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use.

Table 2 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, as well as the prevalence of injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 2 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2003 Eighth Essex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	2,046	1,497	535	858	713	686	385
FY '96	2,123	1,519	606	838	701	871	576
FY '97	2,140	1,548	602	705	506	917	649
FY '98	2,209	1,528	611	659	384	992	658
FY '99	2,412	1,742	713	728	387	990	710
FY '00	2,812	2,036	854	780	389	1,100	819
FY '01	2,509	1,766	713	589	258	945	634
FY '02	2,730	1,812	750	638	230	1,014	673
FY '03	2,399	1,488	631	552	212	898	598

Heroin and Injection Drug Use

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Eighth Essex Representative District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV.

